

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-08 SP-02 SAM-01 /045 W

----- 045766

R 171010Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6241

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0682

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, TH, US

SUBJECT: APPEALS FOR LAO RESISTANCE SUPPORT

REF A BANGKOK 5977, B VIENTIANE 0667, C STATE 057870

1. ALTHOUGH I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE GOOD JUDGMENT OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN EMBASSY BANGKOK, I MUST SAY THAT THE ACCOUNT IN REF A OF A DISSIDENT LAO MAJOR AND A THAI POLICEMAN ARRIVING AT THE EMBASSY TO SOLICIT AID FOR THE "LAO RESISTANCE" WORRIES ME. IT WORRIES ME FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. AS DESCRIBED IN REF B, I HAD A SESSION WITH LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH MARCH 15 DOING MY BEST TO ASSURE HIM, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, THAT WE WERE NOT ENCOURAGING OR SUPPORTING RESISTANCE ELEMENTS.

B. LAO PROPAGANDA ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND OF DOING JUST THAT CONTINUES UNABATED.

C. SOVIET AMBASSADOR VDOVINE, WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER BUT DOESN'T, WHEN ASKED BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT THE AIR-PORT MARCH 15 ABOUT THE GRENADE INCIDENT AT HIS EMBASSY MARCH 12, LOOKED IN MY DIRECTION AND SAID "MAYBE WE SHOULD
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ASK HIM."

D. ONE OF OUR SENIOR LOCALS, AN ELECTRICIAN OF THAI NATIONALITY WITH A BACKGROUND OF SERVICE IN THE THAI NAVY, WAS APPARENTLY ARRESTED ABOUT MARCH 1 IN THE COMPANY OF TWO OTHER THAI RIDING IN A TAXICAB FROM THADEUA TO VIENTIANE. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GET AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM BUT WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HE IS CONFINED IN SAM KHE PRISON.

2. IT'S DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND THE LPDR ARE ALL THAT RATTLED ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK THE THAI ARE UP TO HERE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF WHAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE DOING IN THAILAND. NEVERTHELESS, THAT'S THE WAY THEY ARE PLAYING IT AND I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT GIVE THEM ANY PRETEXT TO DEVELOP WRONG IDEAS ABOUT US. THEREFORE, I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF THE SEEKERS OF SUPPORT COULD BE NOT ONLY STRAIGHT-ARMED, AS YOU ARE DOING, BUT KEPT AT A GREAT DISTANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760100-0973
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760349/aaaabrbrv.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPEALS FOR LAO RESISTANCE SUPPORT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, TH, US
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006